



## RECLAIMED WATER

# THINGS TO CONSIDER ABOUT USING RECLAIMED WATER

Recycled water is an important water resource today and for the future. Tucson Water uses some of its recycled water to produce reclaimed water, which is specially treated for applications such as irrigation, dust control, fire fighting, and industrial uses. Reclaimed water is not treated to be used for drinking or bathing.

Because reclaimed water is recycled water, its use has some special requirements. The information below is provided to assist you in deciding whether using reclaimed water is right for you.

**Proximity to the Reclaimed Water System:** Unlike the drinking water system, reclaimed water is not available in all parts of the Tucson Water Service Area. Check the [map](#) to determine whether your property is within 1/8 mile of an existing reclaimed water main. If your property is located within this corridor, it may be cost-effective for you to obtain reclaimed water service. For assistance in determining the cost of extending a reclaimed water main, contact New Services at 791-5164. Please note: it is the City's policy that the customer pays for all extensions of the reclaimed water system.

**Conservation Ethic:** Using reclaimed water is a good way to recycle water that is available locally. Recycling saves our high quality water supplies for drinking. Our goal is to continue to add customers to the reclaimed water system.

**Irrigation System Upgrades:** In order to use reclaimed water for irrigation, your irrigation system must be **completely** separate from the drinking water system. It must be designed so that there is no ponding of reclaimed water and reclaimed water does not overspray onto eating areas, sidewalks, or neighboring properties. All new irrigation pipe must be purple. For more information about irrigation system requirements, [click here](#).

**Backflow Prevention Assembly and Thermal Expansion Control Device:** The Uniform Plumbing Code and Arizona Department of Environmental Quality require a backflow prevention assembly be installed on the potable water service to protect the drinking water supply in the event there is ever a cross-connection between the reclaimed and drinking water systems. The installation of a backflow prevention assembly may necessitate the installation of a thermal expansion control device. Both are the responsibility of the homeowner. For more information on thermal expansion, [click here](#).

A [permit](#) is required to install the backflow prevention assembly. The backflow prevention assembly must be inspected annually by a certified backflow prevention tester.

**Price of Reclaimed Water:** Reclaimed water costs less than most of Tucson Water's drinking water rate blocks. For more information, go to <http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/water/new-rates#reclaim>



**Economics:** Some people find the savings from converting to reclaimed water will pay for the improvements required to use this water in a fairly short period of time. Others, who use a minimum amount of water for outdoor irrigation, may find the payback period too long to make a conversion feasible. For more information, go to

[http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/sites/default/files/water/reclaimed\\_water\\_rates\\_1111.pdf](http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/sites/default/files/water/reclaimed_water_rates_1111.pdf).

**Reclaimed Water Meter:** In addition to the initial purchase price of the reclaimed water meter, there is a monthly service charge on the meter. The size of the meter determines the monthly service charge. Most single family homes have one 3/4 inch meter.

**SIGN:** A [sign](#) must be posted at the entry to every site where reclaimed water is in use. The sign for residential properties is small (9 in. x 12 in.) with an attractive design

**Pressure:** Reclaimed water pressure may be different from the drinking water pressure you currently have. It is the responsibility of the property owner to raise or lower the pressure, as necessary.